

NEWS

From the Office of

Bill Postmus

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SUPERVISORS APPROVE STAFFING TO FACILITATE ECONOMIC/CONSTRUCTION GROWTH

SAN BERNARDINO – The San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors today approved staffing increases for the Victorville Building and Safety and Planning Divisions of the County's Land Use Services Department. The action was in response to continued increases in building activity throughout the High Desert area.

The action follows a similar move last year when the Supervisors increased funding to the department to assist with the increased workload caused by the high level of residential and commercial growth in the High Desert. Following last year's changes, the wait time for building plan reviews improved from 50 days to the current wait time of about 10 days.

The Victorville Land Use Services office, which houses both Planning and Building and Safety staff members, has been experiencing an increasingly high level of work. Building permit applications have increased 23% in the Victor Valley-Barstow region when compared to numbers from last year.

Board of Supervisors Chairman Bill Postmus, who represents the High Desert, said, "This additional staffing is necessary for us to be able to take advantage of the tremendous economic development we are experiencing. We want businesses and property owners to be comfortable working with our county and we want to be able to provide the best possible development-review services as quickly as possible as we try to help bring more jobs and amenities to our area."

As a result of the action taken today, as well as other staff reassignments, the Victorville office will gain seven employees, including two Building Inspectors, one Supervising Planner, one Planner III and three Land Use Technicians.

Another step the county is taking to help deal with the construction growth in the desert will be the opening of a new, larger Victorville County Land Use Services office, which is expected to open in May. The larger office will help to better serve the booming construction industry and help to shorten wait times.